

ZZ RUEAIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE
STU1649
ZZ RUEHC
DE RUTADR #6178/01 2151924
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
Z O 031910Z AUG 81 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 9774
INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BANJUL IMMEDIATE 4394
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1023
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 5870
RUFHOLD/AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE 0019
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUCBSAA/CINCLANT NORVA
RUSNAAA/CINCUSAEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUCIFBA/MACOS INTEL CENTER SCOTT AFB IL
RUCPAAA/RAPID DEPLOYMENT JTF MACDILL AFB
RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUCJAAA/USCINCREC MACDILL AFB FL
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 06178 COMBINED SECTION
CINCLANT NORVA FOR J2
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK FOR N2
RAPID DEPLOYMENT JTF MACDILL AFB FOR N2
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE FOR AEAGM-C(M)
USCINCREC MACDILL AFB FL FOR RCJ2
E.O. 12065: GDS 8/3/87 (DEJARNETTE, EDMUND) - OR-M
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, GA, SG

CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

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TOR: 032006Z AUG 81

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY EXTRACTION OF FOREIGNERS FROM
BANJUL AREA

REF: A. DAKAR 6174, B. STATE 204289,
C. USCINCEUR 01172BZ AUG 81

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. WHILE RADIO CONTACT WITH BANJUL AS OF 1645 Z SUGGESTS THAT AREA IS CALM AND THAT PARA 2 OF THE STATE REF MAY BE OVERDRAWN AND OVERGENERALIZES THE SITUATION AS SEEN FROM OUR RESIDENCE, THERE IS NO DISCOUNTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT GAMBIAN REBELS OR CRIMINAL ELEMENTS COULD TAKE OVER OUR RESIDENCE AT WILL. WE CANNOT PREDICT IF THE REBELS WILL TAKE THIS DECISION BUT WE CONSIDER IT FORTUNATE THAT AT THIS POINT THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO.

3. THE SENEGALESE PRESIDENCY INFORMED US AT 1615 Z THAT PRESIDENT DIOUF HAS GIVEN A DIRECT ORDER TO DEPLOY SENEGALESE FORCES IN RELIEF OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS BY PROVIDING A PROTECTIVE PERIMETER AND/OR SECURE ESCORT TO OLD BANJUL CITY. DIOUF'S ORDER FOLLOWED THE JOINT DEMARCHE BY THE DCM AND BRITISH CHARGE AT 1330 Z. HOWEVER, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT IT HAD NOT REACHED OPERATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND IN DAKAR BY 1630 Z.

4. OUR PRESENT OPINION IS THAT SENEGALESE FORCES IN BANJUL AND VICINITY HAVE LESS THAN A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SECURING THE FAJARA RESIDENTIAL AREA WHERE OUR RESIDENCE AND MAJORITY OF EUROPEANS ARE LOCATED. WE ESTIMATE LESS THAN 20 PERCENT CHANCE THAT THE SENEGALESE FORCES COULD CARRY OUT A SECURE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS IN THIS AREA.

5. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE WE SEE THREE OPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION BY NON-SENEGALESE FORCES. WE LIST THESE IN WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE THE ORDER OF POLITICAL PREFERENCE: (A) ESTABLISHING A SECURE PERIMETER AND EXTRACTION BY FRENCH MILITARY ASSETS

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LOCATED IN DAKAR. THESE ASSETS INCLUDE A 400-MAN OVERSEAS INFANTRY BATTALION (23RD BIMA) ONE PUMA HELICOPTER, 4 NORDATLAS TRANSPORTS, AND 4 JAGUAR ATTACK AIRCRAFT (FOR INTIMIDATION PURPOSES). THIS COURSE OF ACTION COULD ONLY BE AUTHORIZED THROUGH PARIS. (B) SECURING THE RESIDENTIAL AREA AND EVACUATION BY BRITISH MILITARY FORCES. THE BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMED US AT 1745 Z THAT LONDON HAS TAKEN A DECISION TO PREPOSITION AN EVACUATION TEAM IN DAKAR. THE TEAM CONSISTS OF ONE HERCULES C-130 WITH A 90 SEAT CAPACITY AND 20 TROOPS. ETA FOR THE HERCULES IN DAKAR IS 0700 Z, AUGUST 4. THE BRITISH NOW PLAN TO HOLD THE HERCULES AT DAKAR UNTIL CONDITIONS WOULD ALLOW THE MOVEMENT OF THEIR CITIZENS WITH RELATIVE SAFETY FROM THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS TO YUNDUM AIRPORT. THE TROOPS WOULD SERVE ONLY TO GUARD THE AIRCRAFT AND WOULD NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SECURE AND HOLD THE RESIDENTIAL AREA. WHILE THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS YET, WE PRESUME THAT NON-BRITISH CITIZENS COULD ALSO BE EVACUATED BY THIS AIRCRAFT IN A SERIES OF SORTIES. (C) USE OF US MILITARY ASSETS; IF NON-AMERICAN FORCES ARE AVAILABLE, WE BELIEVE THEIR USE GREATLY TO BE PREFERRED.

6. WE HAVE REVIEWED USCINCEUR 011725Z AUG 81 (SECSTATE NOT ADDRESSEE; WE HAVE REQUESTED CINCEUR TO REPEAT ON IMMEDIATE BASIS) AND LEAVE TO WASHINGTON AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES THE PLANNING OF THIS OPERATION. POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN SENEGAL AND GAMBIA ARGUE FOR THE SMALLEST AND LEAST VISIBLE FORCE.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THE SAFEHAVEN SITUATION IN THE FAJARA RESIDENTIAL AREA TO BE: 115 AMERICANS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES IN US RESIDENCE, 12 BRITISH IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY, AND UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BRITISH IN THEIR MEDICAL COMPOUND ACROSS FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION, 300-400 BRITISH CITIZENS ARE IN RESIDENCIES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT FAJARA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS. THEIR DISPERSION COMPLICATES EVACUATION.

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8. THE DEPARTMENT WILL SURELY UNDERSTAND THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN BOTH DAKAR AND BANJUL WILL NEED ADEQUATE PRIOR NOTICE TO ALLOW THEM TO INFORM THE RESPECTIVE GAMBIAN AND SENEGALESE HEADS OF STATE OF ANY ACTIONS THAT WE WISH TO TAKE AND SEEK THEIR CONCURRENCE.

9. WE INVITE BANJUL'S COMMENTS ON THE NECESSITY FOR THIS CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND ON THE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE EVACUATION OPERATIONS. OBVIOUSLY, THIS PLANNING COULD BE OVERTAKEN BY THE ARRIVAL OF AN ADEQUATE SENEGALESE SECURITY FORCE IN THE FAJARA AREA TONIGHT. BRAY

END OF MESSAGE

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